

AN INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE

WHAT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
IS DOING FOR THE CIVILIANS OF FRANCE

July 1917 — May 1918



AMERICAN RED CROSS
12, RUE BOISSY-D'ANGLAS
PARIS, FRANCE



Paris, May 21 st, 1918.

Major James H. PERKINS, O. R. C., U. S. A.,
Commissioner for France of the American Red Cross,
Paris, France.

My dear Major PERKINS,

I transmit herewith a statement of the work of the Department of Civil Affairs for the month of April.

For the past few months, the reports of the Department of Civil Affairs have been almost wholly statistical, giving simply a very brief outline of the work of the Department. This report for the month of April aims to convey a fuller impression of the real nature, under-lying purposes and significant results of the various lines of work in which we are engaged. Appended to it are some of the more important statistics of the work of the month.

Acknowledgments are due to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis S. Gannett of the Editorial and Historical Division, who have kept the running history of the Department and have prepared the text of this report as well as the statistical material.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HOMER FOLKS,

Director,

Department of Civil Affairs,
American Red Cross in France

CONTENTS

Foreword by Mr. FOLKS,

Director of the Department of Civil Affairs 1

I. The Red Cross in the Battle of Picardy 3

II. The Home-Coming Procession 11

III. The Coming Generation. 17

IV. Derelicts of the War 22

V. France and America - Their International Adventure. 26

Statistical Appendix.

THE RED CROSS IN THE BATTLE OF PICARDY

When the roads of Picardy were black with slowly moving masses of men, women and children, donkey carts, goat carts, wheelharrows, cows, dogs, pushcarts, bound in tragic pilgrimage to an unknown end, it was inevitable that the American Red Cross should throw its resources, human and material, in with those of the French Government and the French Red Cross to relieve in some measure the awful burden of human misery caused by the German offensive. It goes without saying that wherever American soldiers were, the American Red Cross almost automatically followed them; but this particular report is the story of its work for the civilians of France.

The Red Cross was not entirely unprepared for such an emergency. The break came in a country where it had been at work; to tell the story of what it did during the offensive it is necessary to tell how it came to be on the spot, and something of what it had already accomplished.

When the Red Cross came to France ten months ago, the Germans had just retired to the Hindenburg line, leaving behind them a country of fresh scars — a region of burned homes, broken carts, defiled wells, and fruit trees ruthlessly cut down. It was the "liberated region".

Just this side of the liberated region thousands of exiles had been waiting to go home, people who had fled before the Germans in 1914. They went back, as pioneers. *Nothing* awaited them — no roofs, no window-glass, no chickens, cows and horses. They needed everything. Small groups — French, English and American — went in with them from the very beginning. When the Red Cross entered the field it did not attempt to compete with these groups of earnest workers — it set itself to strengthen them. It located warehouses at Ham, Noyon, Soissons and Arras, well within range of the German big guns; it established a group of field delegates; it shipped condensed milk and chocolate; beds, tables, and mattresses; pumps; kitchenware; garden seed; rahhits, chickens, goats; farm tools and machinery. The delegates distributed the stocks through the local *œuvres*, sometimes through the *maires* or other local officials who knew their townsfolk and their needs. In the heart of a wheat-growing section, it

began patching houses and barns and making a restoration of agricultural life possible.

Without the co-operation of the devoted groups — French, British and American — who established themselves here and there in the lonely villages and by their example inspired new faith and courage, the work would have been impossible. With Monsieur and Madame Amadee Vernes at Nesle, the *Secours d'Urgence* at Roye and Peronne, the *Village Reconstitué* at Noyon and Lassigny, relations were particularly intimate and fruitful; with the Philadelphia Unit at Villequier-Aumont, the Civil Section of the American Fund for French Wounded at Blérancourt, the Smith College Unit (which in the late winter became an integral part of the Red Cross) at Grécourt, and the Society of Friends at Ham, Foreste, Golancourt, Esmery-Hallon and Gruny, co-operation was constant.

The Society of Friends stands in a still more intimate relation to the American Red Cross. English workers — and a very few Americans — had been at work in the Marne long before the Red Cross Commission came to France. When in September a hundred young Americans arrived for reconstruction service, they became a part both of the American Red Cross and of the Anglo-American Mission of the Society of Friends. They and later arrivals (there are now nearly 200 American Friends working with the Red Cross in France) were scattered through a score of centers in the Somme and Marne regions. Their factories at Dole and Ornans produced demountable houses, and these they set up in the towns closer to the front. A substantial Red Cross subsidy made possible the opening of their second factory, the extension of their repair and agricultural work in the Somme, and the strengthening of all their activities.

The French, officers and citizens alike, had thus acquired confidence in the Red Cross and allied groups; they had learned to turn to these strangers in their own country for help and sympathy. When the great offensive broke, and town after town was suddenly warned that it must pack up and leave, sometimes on three hours' notice, and sometimes with but half an hour to spare, they naturally turned to the Americans; and the Americans did what they could. Edward Eyre Hunt, chief of the Bureau of Reconstruction and Relief, which had been doing the Red Cross work in that region, tells the story of the exodus.

« The rapidity with which the order was executed was almost incredible. The two motor trucks and the Ford which belonged to the construction camp were hastily placed at the disposal of

the population, and a sort of dry-land ferry service was established back and forth to the bridges over the river Somme. American military engineers had built those bridges for the British army. American motor trucks, in charge of American Red Cross men, now evacuated the civilians. The American relief staff in the town of Ham began an immediate evacuation of its small store of supplies. As at the construction camp, its cars organized a ferry service and carried exhausted civilians beyond the danger zone. The chauffeurs drove again and again into the bombarded towns to bring out the last remaining families. One of the chauffeurs in a camionette drove into Ham with three flat tires on broken-down springs and carried out six wounded British soldiers.

« The staff and the two thousand civilians from Ham were withdrawn first to Nesle, and then to Roye. At Nesle, the American Red Cross had storage facilities in two wooden barracks, and its stock of food and condensed milk was of immediate value to the refugees and the wounded soldiers streaming in from Ham. A small but important children's hospital belonging to the Red Cross was also at Nesle in a brick house called the Pavillon Joffre. The doctor, the nurses, and their patients were evacuated to Roye, where they installed themselves in a small civil hospital belonging to the *Secours d'Urgence*, and where that night they received wounded soldiers. The following day they were evacuated to Amiens.

« The Smith College Relief Unit, at Grécourt, a little to the south of Nesle, evacuated its personnel Friday night and Saturday morning, and these reported themselves and their motor-cars to the Red Cross delegate for the Somme, acting under his orders throughout the rest of the evacuation. Almost their first thought, after assisting in the evacuation of the people in their villages, was to save the cattle, for milk in the devastated region is more precious than rubies. Day and night also their cars, driven by young girls over shell-swept roads, ferried back and forth, carrying out civilians and wounded soldiers...

« The British and American Society of Friends reported themselves and their cars immediately to the relief delegates in their districts. These non-combatants worked under shellfire without sleep, without rest, day after day and all the nights...

« Soissons was under the bombardment both of airplane and guns for days before the battle began. All day and all night the scream of shells tore the air, and their detonations rumbled over the earth. American troops, which had been completing their

instruction in that sector, were entraining, and the Germans undoubtedly knew it, for they directed their fire largely on the railroad station and on the buildings nearby where the American quartermaster's supplies were stored. Late one afternoon a hardware merchant of one of the suburbs rode to the Red Cross headquarters on his bicycle to ask for a few packing boxes; his house and shop had just been struck, and he wished to save what he could from the ruins. "I come to you first", he said, "because it has become natural for us to come to the Americans first when we are in need".

« At the railheads this feeling of reliance on the Americans was particularly evident. The refugees sat among their bundles, families huddled together fearful of being separated in the bustle, their featherbeds and often their rabbits and a goat pressed close to them. They were dulled by the noise and by their own weariness. The only activity was caused by the Americans, each of whom insisted on finding "my people", collecting them so that he might better attend to their wants. "*Petits pères*", an old woman called them.

« From the human side the evacuation is, and always will be, indescribable. It was a vast lava flow of men, animals and materials. Every little country road and every highway was jammed with the endless lines of camions salvaging military supplies of all sorts and at the same time removing the civilians and their little possessions. The immense importance of the agricultural work in the devastated district was symbolized by the presence of batteries of American tractor plows, and by the yokes of oxen or teams of horses pulling out Brabant plows, drills, cultivators, disk harrows, reapers and binders. Civilians came away in every conceivable vehicle, in wheelbarrows, in baby carriages, in little dogcarts, but most of them came on foot, walking in the ditches beside the long lines of troops. Roads were as dusty as in mid-summer. Every tree, every blade of grass by the wayside, was white with the fine powder churned up by innumerable wheels and feet. They were spectral in the dusk. The refugees in their weak misery, and the soldiers in their grim calmness passed each other on the roads; the one moving forward to stop the invaders, the other fleeing back to where they were shortly stopped by their new friends, the men and women they had come to trust, the workers of the American Red Cross and its affiliated societies...

« On the third day of the battle the relief force from Arras was at Amiens with the doctor and nurses from Nesle. The relief staff from Ham, Nesle and Grécourt, with the Society of Friends, was

in Montdidier. A small stock of supplies, hastily sent from Noyon, was at Lassigny. Noyon itself had come under the guns and was the center of feverish activity. Here, as everywhere else, American Red Cross passenger cars and motor trucks were evacuating civilians and their goods under the general direction of British officers and the French *Sous-Préfet* of the department of the Oise. Between the third and fourth days of the battle, Montdidier, Lassigny and Noyon had to be evacuated; and on the fifth day Amiens came within range of the guns, and more than fifty thousand people left the city and poured out on to the roads.

« During the whole of the evacuation, a motor courier service kept every part of the organization in touch with the rest and preserved absolute unity of direction.

« The Red Cross during this time had served chiefly civilians, although more than one of its trucks, with mattresses placed at the bottom to prevent too much jolting, had gone back and forth, time and again, hauling out wounded Tommies and wounded Americans. The members of the Smith College Unit, the Friends' Unit, the English women of the Women's Emergency Canteen for French Soldiers, and other war-zone organizations were detailed to the railroad centers, through which the refugee stream was passing, to help in organizing emergency canteens, giving out food, searching for lost luggage, reuniting separated families and evacuating the ill and the infirm to railroad trains. Several members of the Society of Friends accompanied their people all the way to the south of France and personally saw to their safety and comfort. More than once a camion brought in its last load of helpless old people from a village where the advancing columns were so near that shots from the machine guns were already pattering in the deserted streets....

« At Beauvais a refugee hospital was immediately opened with American Red Cross doctors in charge. Lodgings were provided for several hundred fugitives, and the incessant land ferry service which had been inaugurated at Croix-Molignaux on the first day of the battle, was continued in the west. At Rouen, where a flood of refugees arrived, overwhelming the normal French relief societies, three American Red Cross barracks were at once erected in the principal square as an immediate contribution to the lodging problem.

« The Red Cross stores at Ham, Nesle and Lassigny had been lavishly used for the benefit of British and French troops. When the warehouses were finally given up, there remained in them only a few heavy things, such as stoves that could not be carried off or

used on the spot, and some small stocks of civilian clothing. In dollars and cents, or in pounds and tons, the American Red Cross lost little in the evacuation, and it saved every man and woman of its personnel and every vehicle belonging to its motor-transport, except one broken-down truck which it had to abandon at Montdidier. »

But the work on the front line does not tell the whole story of civilian relief in the great battle of 1918. There is the work in Paris and the work in all the rest of France. For the refugees, starting in a little corner of the north of France, poured out in a great stream south and west — to Brittany, to Touraine, Burgundy, Provence, and the Basque country. Wherever they went they found the American Red Cross awaiting them. The machinery which had been organized to care for the repatriates coming back to France from behind the German lines was immediately transformed into a great organization to establish the refugees. The Paris bureaux were stripped and emergency groups sent north and south and east and west. Others gave up their sleep to work through the night in the station canteens.

Because many of the trains which brought refugees down from the north came to Paris or passed through it, the capital found itself faced by an acute emergency. Train after train, arriving at all hours of the day and night, filled the great railroad stations with an ever-growing crowd of refugees whose condition was only more miserable and more exhausted and more helpless than when they had been packed, cattle-like, aboard the cars ten, twenty, or even thirty and more hours before. The Red Cross promptly offered its aid to the French authorities and relief societies in the reception of these convoys. Food, clothing, canteen workers, and medical personnel were sent to the railroad stations as they were needed. Red Cross camions, working day and night, did valiant service in transferring the travellers from station to station or to the hastily established refuges where they were to pass the night before continuing the long journey to points in the south or west of France. To find accommodations for these people, even for a night, was a difficult problem in over-crowded Paris; besides giving aid to refuges managed by French authorities, the Red Cross took over two school buildings, the Lycée Charlemagne and a school on the Rue Diderot, fitted them up with mattresses, bedding, and canteen facilities sufficient to care for about 300 people each, and ran them at capacity for several nights during the height of the crisis. The number of thousands of persons aided through these hurried days is difficult to estimate; however many they



Refugees pour into the stations with only a few hastily collected parcels.



American Friends repairing a ruined roof in the Somme.

were, Miss Curtis, in charge of the Paris work of the Bureau of Refugees reports on the contribution of the Red Cross as follows :

« I think it is no exaggeration to say of all the refugees arriving, that the Red Cross has made it possible for them to receive clothing and a substantial meal, and that it has transferred at least half of the total number. »

It is impossible to tell briefly the story of Red Cross help to the refugees. The story wanders over the whole map of France. In the first days of the battle five huge camions started from Paris laden with food and headed north to a destination which changed as the news of the battle changed. Later trucks went to railroad junctions nearer Paris. One day at noon a hurry call came from the Ministry of War. A *ravitaillement* train was loading just outside of Paris for a point where fifty thousand refugees had gathered. It was just after the British had lost Merville. Condensed milk was needed, and beef. When the train left that evening twenty tons of Red Cross food were aboard. In the bustle and confusion of those days orders sometimes criss-crossed. Another hurry call brought out more tons of Red Cross food, but before it was delivered to the station the orders had been countermanded; the train was following a different route, and the food was unloaded and re-stored. Sixty-six thousand refugees were fed in French Red Cross canteens at American Red Cross expense, and the canteens in which they were fed were scattered like a network up and down France.

When the Swiss border was closed late in February in anticipation of the German offensive and the repatriate convoys stopped, delegates of the Bureau of Refugees who had been preparing for their reception thought they were to have a few weeks' breathing space to aid in reestablishing in homes the refugees who were already there. But there was no lull. First Nancy was evacuated. Twenty-three hundred *évacués* from Nancy went to the Manche alone. The Red Cross delegate aided the *maires* in equipping houses for them, provided clothing for them and arranged for the local manufacture of beds. Sudden calls were made on the delegates in other departments.

Then came the great rush of *évacués* from the north. Red Cross and allied groups were called upon for service of every kind. A dozen Quakers went to Lourdes to act as temporary orderlies in an insane asylum which was moved whole from near Amiens. Another group accompanied an old-folks' home to Cannes. But the great problem was to house the convoys sent in rapid succession to one department.

The task of answering not merely the immediate needs but the permanent necessities of these families is only begun. To provide food and shelter for these hundreds of thousands of people is something; but more must be done. A thousand people here, and a thousand people there, families separated without any of the individuality and self respect of home and family life, means a fever of unrest in the nation. To find work for people planted suddenly where work for which they are trained may not exist at all, to reunite families, to give them again a sense of personality, of usefulness to the community and the nation, is the task that is being faced today. A beginning has been made, but only a beginning.

THE HOME-COMING PROCESSION

Without the excitement of battle but with the reality of war-time misery no less poignant, another great group of refugees is scattered throughout France. When the gray armies swept over northern France in that first great drive of 1914 a wave of refugees receded before it to the safer cities of the center and south. For the most part they were the rich who could afford to take with them their jewels and securities and lose the rest, the very poor who had nothing to lose, and the mobile population of industrial cities. The peasant landowners, rooted to the soil by the generations through which one family had tilled the holding, the keepers also of the tiny but marvellously neat French shops, stayed to guard their homes.

These are the folk who through the fall and winter months streamed back to France through Switzerland — « repatriates ». The young and vigorous were retained as civil prisoners to supply labor in Germany; the old people, the mothers of children, and the children under fifteen were sent from their homes near the front to isolated towns in Belgium or Germany for what was sometimes several weeks, more often several months, and then sent back into France in convoys which arrived at Evian twice a day, day after day for months, except for brief intervals when the frontier was closed. Each convoy brought from five hundred to a thousand home-coming French citizens.

France's welcome to them — the trumpeters who led the procession from the station to what used to be the fashionable municipal Casino; the mayor's speech, made in evening clothes whether at six o'clock in the morning or five in the afternoon; the first free singing of the Marseillaise after three years and more of captivity — is a story which has often been told. More than half the repatriates found letters at Evian from friends and relatives who were waiting to receive them; the rest, usually without resources of strength or money, were sent in convoy trains of four or five or six hundred to be billeted in departments designated by the Ministry of the Interior. Three hundred and fifty thousand persons, up to the time of the closing of the frontier in February, had already been poured through Evian, and through that small end of the funnel, out over France; and thousands more are waiting their turn in occupied France and Belgium.

When the American Red Cross asked the group of French men and women who had worked joyfully and unflaggingly in the tremendous task of organization and routine which this march of provinces demanded, what could be done to aid their work, the first request was for automobiles to carry the aged and the ill from the station to the casino, while the able-bodied followed the trumpeters on foot. The request was filled. Then early in November Red Cross doctors took over the medical examination of every little repatriate, and in the first fifteen weeks they examined 31,228; a Red Cross hospital of 200 beds with accompanying general and dental dispensaries began caring for acutely and contagiously ill children, and an isolation villa was established where orphan children on the way to Lyons institutions are kept during the incubation period of contagious diseases.

The importance for all France of a thorough medical organization at Evian can hardly be overestimated. The years of steady undernourishment in the conquered territory and the long journey on crowded and not too comfortable trains have their natural effect on the children who come in to Evian; contagion of all kinds is unusually prevalent and frequently of an exceptionally malignant type. To one sick child who slipped through Evian before thorough medical examination had been established two hundred cases of diphtheria and nine deaths in a distant part of France were traced.

Every day, when the convoys are running, brings its hundreds of new children to Evian, and the hospital beds must be saved for those who cannot go further because of the acute or contagious nature of their illness. Lyons, therefore, has been made the clearing center for all but this imperative class of patients. On a hilltop thirty miles outside the city is a Red Cross convalescent hospital for 200 children, established in a mountain villa which had been left by bequest to the General Hospital Board of Lyons to be used for children's work, but never used, and which is lent by that organization, rent-free, to the American Red Cross. In Lyons itself plans are in execution for a clearing hospital of 60 beds for repatriate children on their way to Red Cross or French institutions, a hospital of 60 beds for acutely ill children, and a summer fresh air camp where several hundreds of mothers and babies can be cared for in hot weather.

Where to find hospital beds for tuberculous women and children was a problem in France even before the repatriate stream began to bring in civilians who had contracted the disease under the hard conditions of life in the captive territory. Imperious mili-



At Evian American Red Cross ambulances carry the aged to the Casino.



Little repatriates at Evian, who have been sent back to France without father or mother.

tary needs have filled and over-filled the hospitals of peace-time ; there has been almost no place for a tuberculous woman to go. With the aid and cooperation of the General Hospital Board of Lyons the American Red Cross opened a hospital of 220 beds for tuberculous women and girls returned from Germany ; it is now engaged in another venture, almost unique, at Plessis-Robinson, just outside of Paris.

Asile Ste-Eugénie, as the Lyons institution is called, has been established in a central building (which years ago was presented to the city of Lyons by the Empress Eugénie) and five newly constructed barracks, all lent by the Hospital Board. The Board furnishes the building and supplies heat, light, and water without cost to the Red Cross, and linen, disinfection and food at cost price. The Red Cross has made itself responsible for medical direction, medical and nursing service and the provision of medical supplies.

Before the war the Department of the Seine purchased the Chateau Hachette and its famous park near Plessis-Robinson to be developed as a garden city of workingmen's model houses. The rolling meadow, open hillsides and the forest made it an ideal spot for tuberculous patients ; the whole property is now lent rent-free by the Department to the American Red Cross for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. American and English Quakers affiliated with the Red Cross did much of the plastering, papering and elementary plumbing necessary to convert the old chateau into a sanatorium for eighty women and children, most of them refugees and repatriates, and to remodel a nearby boarding house into a preventorium where seventy-five children who come from tuberculous families or are underdeveloped and undernourished can live in the fresh air and have the country life they need to strengthen them to resist infection. This group of institutions has been christened the « Edward L. Trudeau Sanatorium », in honor of the American expert on tuberculosis, who was of French parentage.

Many refugee and repatriate families, already separated from sons in the armies or daughters who are civil prisoners in Germany, hesitate to permit tuberculous members to be sent to hospitals. To enable these families to stay together without risking the further spread of infection, a village of one hundred and fifty portable houses is being constructed at Malabry near Plessis-Robinson, which will embody many of the principles of the « home hospital » in New York City. Each family will have its own house — and the importance of this plan will be realized keenly by

anyone who has seen repatriate families of five or six living in one dark tenement room because no other quarters could be found. Moreover, each family, the non-tuberculous members as well as the tuberculous, will be under the constant supervision and direction of physicians and nurses who will care for the ill and instruct the others in the measure of hygiene which will prevent the spread of the disease. Schools and playgrounds, recreation facilities, a cooperative store, village laundry, community bath-houses, industrial classes and dispensary will be established.

When the sick and those who have friends and relatives waiting to receive them have been sifted from each day's incoming throng at Evian, there remain every day some four to six hundred without the means or ability to devise plans for their own future. They are sent out on another convoy train to be billeted in some one of the departments of France. The arrival at Evian brings to each convoy the joyful sense of coming home to France, to their own language, their own people. The next stage of the journey — their arrival in a strange province — more often than not gives them again the disheartenment of a strange land.

The repatriates are people from the lowlands of the north — many of them lineal descendants of the Flemish weavers. To them France means their wide expanses of land with high chimney stacks, bustling towns, wheat fields and sugar beet fields, mines and iron works — dearer by far than the harbors of the little red-sailed Breton fishing boats, the vineyard slopes of Touraine, or the hills rising to the Pyrenees in the south. For to the French there is the *patrie* — the big country for whom the blue armies are fighting, for whom the flags are hung out and the speeches made — but there is also the *pays*, the little bit of countryside which is home, the corner that, to them, concretely symbolizes France. So the exiles of the north may return to France, but to another France — to Brittany where they do not even understand the language of the farmers, or to the Corrèze, where there is little tilled ground and almost no industry, or to a hundred and one corners of France where there is neither accustomed scene nor work.

What the added burden of these newcomers, industrial discards whom Germany has returned because their labor is not worth the food they eat, must mean to the little communes of France already drained by forty-two months of war, can be told in the terms of two villages of the south.

There is, for instance, La Grange, a group of perhaps twenty one-storied thatched cottages, each turning an unfriendly end to

the road. The mayor is a *réformé* — one leg lost at the beginning of the war. Not for him the wonders of a mechanism with springs in its joints, but he must stump through life on a wooden peg. The dozen repatriates who arrived in his commune — a country of rounded hills and many deep valleys, with small patches of tilled ground and hard hilly roads on which one passes donkey carts and flocks of sheep and pigs on the way to the markets — returned immediately to the city from which they had been sent out. He told a Red Cross delegate that they had given just one look — had not even stopped to eat the meal provided from the best the village could afford. No one was to blame; he had offered the best he could get in food and shelter. The repatriates saw no prospect of work which they knew how to do and nothing to drive away the dreadful homesickness for their Flanders fields.

At Treignac the mayor is a gentle, white-haired gentleman, courteous in greeting and formal in welcome to the Americans. He smiled a bit sadly while his wife told of the martyrdom of her poor patient husband. At the beginning of the war Treignac had fitted out five ambulances; it had given to the French Red Cross all its spare sheets, cloth and bedding, and it had taken care of refugees and repatriates until, when the word came that they must take in yet another group, the poor mayor did not sleep for eight nights. No place to put them, no work that they could do or were willing to do. The best that could be arranged was a dormitory with hospital cots — but even there coverlets and sheets were lacking.

To help in the gigantic task of giving these people the essentials of shelter and clothing and food, and aiding them to find some work and maintain a liveable home until the war is over and they can go back to rebuild their devastated villages, the Ministry of the Interior in December appealed to the American Red Cross for aid. In answer to the call the Red Cross developed a machinery of some sixty delegates in as many departments of France. It was to this staff built up during the winter that the Red Cross turned when, in March, the German offensive broke and there came pouring down from the north the long stream of the new *évacués*. Trained to an intimate knowledge of the districts in which they work, already familiar with the general problem of transplanting uprooted populations to new and often uncongenial soil, these delegates have met the new demands with quick decision and understanding. What they have been able to do must be judged by the difficulties of the problem. Since 1914, uninvaded France has been constantly receiving her homeless refugees; the point

of saturation has often been perilously close. In March of this year the Bureau of Refugees found lodgings for nearly five thousand persons and employment for as many more; in April the number was close to ten thousand. Where furniture could not be bought they have had it made; where houses were unavailable because they were unfurnished they have had them furnished, and food, clothing, furniture, bedding and coal have been given to refugees or sold on the installment plan to those who can pay, in quantities which make the Red Cross shopping list one of astonishing proportions: 150,000 articles of clothing, 270,000 pounds of foodstuffs, 64,000 articles of furniture, 63,000 pieces of bedding, and 74,000 yards of cloth are some of the items for one month.

It is by such assistance, enabling the refugees to become an integral part of their new communities instead of remaining a mere burden, as well as by the distribution of food, fuel, clothing, etc. to many more thousands in immediate need, that the Red Cross is helping France to solve, and keep solving, the problem of the refugee.

THE COMING GENERATION

From the very beginning of the European war, it has been the children of Belgium and France who have made the most imperative appeal to America; the Red Cross is doing its utmost to express America's answer to that appeal.

Across France, from Nesle in the Somme, now again in the hands of the Germans, along the frontier of Meurthe and Moselle, and to Marseilles in the Mediterranean, centers have been established for the medical care of children to assure for them the chance of a healthy and happy childhood, menaced as they are by the drag of war upon the whole civilian population and the over-intimate experience of the war which hundreds of thousands of children from the frontier towns have suffered. Wherever a demand has come for aid in meeting emergencies, the Children's Bureau has answered in so far as its personnel and resources permitted. Hand in hand with this immediate work has gone a far-reaching campaign of public health education which promises much for French children of the future. The health of the coming generation cannot safely be neglected, even in wartime.

The campaign began in January when an automobile camion loaded with pamphlets and postcards and lantern slides prepared by the Rockefeller Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France and the Children's Bureau of the Red Cross left Paris to plow through stormbound roads to the towns and villages in the department of the Eure and Loire. In the cities and large towns mass meetings were held in the municipal theatres or town hall, and smaller meetings for special groups of persons; moving pictures, instructive as well as amusing, were shown; and an exhibit of panels, posters, and pamphlets was placed in some central building. In the villages the program was simpler; most of the work there was in the schools. During January, February, March and April 41,000 persons visited these exhibits; the applicability to France of methods of public health propaganda which had been successful in America was proved. Two such travelling exhibits are now on their wandering way — one in Brittany, one in Touraine — and a third is planned for the Midi.

Lyons, the second city of France, was chosen for the first of a series of large scale child welfare exhibitions; and when it opened on April 9 representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, of the city of Lyons, of the army, the church, the medical profession, and the allied governments, joined in celebrating the occasion.

The exhibition opened at a time when all France was breathless under the strain of the German offensive; fears were expressed that it would be a failure; but during its first week more than 50,000 persons passed through the turnstile into the huge pavilion which had been erected for the automobile exhibit at the Lyons Industrial Fair and later lent to the Red Cross. France was awake to the menace to her future.

How to feed, clothe and bathe a baby, how to care for children of two or three or four years, what recreation a child should have, how its teeth should be brushed, and allied subjects were demonstrated by American specialists in the various booths that lined the wall and in a glass house about which hundreds gathered thrice daily to watch the model toilette of a real live baby, loaned for the occasion. In three playgrounds outside the pavilion — one for boys, one for girls, and one with tempting sandboxes for children under eight, playground teachers played American games with French children while admiring rows of older spectators lined the picket fence to watch. Moving pictures and Punch-and-Judy shows graphically illustrated health maxims. Every morning schoolteachers brought their classes to see the exhibit, and the afternoons were crowded.

In the three weeks of the exposition the turnstile registered 173,000 admissions.

An exhibition similar to that at Lyons will be opened at Marseilles during the latter part of May; later another will be held at Bordeaux. Representatives of these cities and of their child-welfare organizations visited Lyons and are already at work preparing for the expositions in their cities and vowing that theirs shall exceed that at Lyons in popularity and effect.

While the foundations for this extensive health propaganda were being laid the American Red Cross established a series of children's hospitals, dispensaries, and health centers in which thousands of French children are cared for each month.

One of the first appeals which the Red Cross answered after its arrival in France was that of Prefect Mirman of Nancy, to whom the care of several hundred young children from the gas-bombed villages behind the lines suddenly was entrusted. The Red Cross acted in cooperation with the prefect and the American Fund for French Wounded in establishing a refuge for these children in a former barracks at Toul. From that beginning in July a center for children's work has grown which now reaches more than 2,000 children each week. At Toul itself a hospital of 40 beds was opened late in October; the capacity was soon more than doubled, and a maternity

ward, opened in March within a few hours after word had been received that the maternity ward at Nancy would have to be closed because of the danger from bombardments, now has 60 beds, making a total of 160. In connection with the refuge, which has been enlarged to shelter about 450 children and 50 mothers of young babies, there are general and dental dispensaries, and a travelling dispensary goes from Toul, Nancy, Epinal, Lunéville, Neufmaisons, and Gerbervillier to villages where clinics are held in factories, schools or townhalls for mothers and children who have had comparatively little medical aid since the physicians were mobilized in 1914. Prefect Mirman made a special report to the general council of his department in April, generously appreciating the Red Cross aid, and has asked it to take charge of foundling babies who need special care.

« The American Red Cross is carrying on a work of special importance from which the public health of Meurthe and Moselle, notably that of the women and children, will derive inexpressible benefit, » he wrote to the members of the council. « It would have been impossible to combine more competent service with greater devotion or to render service to others with better grace. »

Further west, in the capital, American dispensaries, doctors, nurses, and food are helping to lessen the strain of war upon the children. Paris and its suburbs have nine Red Cross dispensaries for mothers and children; in addition Red Cross physicians hold clinics for children in a dispensary established by the Rockefeller Commission, another dispensary is operated jointly by the Red Cross and the Commission, and special clinics for children are held in the general refugee dispensary of the Red Cross.

« They need *food*, not medicine, » Red Cross physicians said after examining a number of children from poorer districts of the city. In many of these wards or *arrondissements* the mothers are working in the munitions factories or other war industries, and the children must take the noon meal — important in the French family régime — in a school canteen. The menu in many of these canteens is now being supplemented by American beans, meat, flour, jam, sugar and other supplies. In one ward war had made it necessary to stop the afternoon « *goûter* » of bread and chocolate which had been given to the children. A little bakery over which floats an American flag and a Red Cross flag is now busy turning Minnesota flour, Louisiana sugar and French milk into « Red Cross buns » which are as good as they are scientific in their composition.

St. Etienne, Lyons and Marseilles are three of the cities to which the growth of war industries has drawn a large new population — refugees, workers whose industries had been closed by war, the roving

population looking for high wages. Housing and living conditions have been made correspondingly difficult, with the inevitable reaction on the health of the general population and especially of the children.

A hospital of 75 beds in Lyons, closed since the beginning of the war, has been re-opened for children by Red Cross money and personnel. At St. Etienne a general hospital for children is to be established; at Marseilles a children's dispensary has been opened and plans for a children's hospital of 100 beds are under way.

This direct work of the Children's Bureau marks only a part of its achievement for the children of France. It has been able to give to many organizations, chiefly French, but also English and American, aid which had become necessary if their work was to be continued or extended. Sometimes its aid comes in the form of money — as in the case of the American Society for the Relief of French War Orphans — where it took over the Society's work of paying Frs. 10 a month to 18,000 children whose fathers had been killed in war. Sometimes the aid comes through grants of food and clothing which the Red Cross can bring from America, and sometimes through the assignment of doctors and nurses, since too often the imperative needs of the army have left the civilian population with inadequate medical care. When the Red Cross leaves France it will leave behind it a series of child welfare organizations strong and equipped to carry on the work.

Throughout the winter a Red Cross physician has been visiting the homes where the Franco-American Committee for the children of the Frontier cares for the boys and girls whose own homes are within danger of shell and gas attack behind the lines; another physician has been assigned to the work of the English and American Friends in the Marne; another to aid a French organization working in the Meuse, and a physician, dentist, and several nurses and aides provide medical care for six hundred children who have been brought from occupied Belgium and housed in a former Chartreuse monastery at Le Glandier under the auspices of the Belgian government and the American Red Cross. One of the latest appeals came from several towns on the Brittany coast where twelve hundred refugee children suddenly were sent to safety, and other doctors and nurses went to care for the many cases of illness that naturally followed months of hard life in the warzone and the long journey across France.

Medical care is perhaps the first essential to a child, but it is not all. Too many children of these war years never have learned how to play. Members of the American Friends Unit are organizing Boy Scout troops at Le Glandier; footballs excited wonder and delight in



Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd painting one of her portrait masks to insure the proper coloring.



Portrait masks of copper, silvered and painted to resemble flesh, for the men with the most tragic of all mutilations.

several Franco-American colonies; at Toul, behind what now is the American front, an American girl taught « tag » and « eye-spy » to her 400 charges. The playgrounds at the Lyons exhibition were only the precursors of a summer camp planned for Lyons children during the warm weather.

DERELICTS OF THE WAR

Every week sees the return from the front-line hospitals of men mutilated in battle so that they are unable to return to their former occupations. France has inaugurated a series of re-educational centers where these men are taught trades which will enable them to support themselves. A study of these remarkable schools, made by the chief of the Red Cross bureau for the re-education of *mutilés* for use in America as well as guidance of Red Cross work in France, revealed the fact that hitherto a small proportion of this reeducational training has been agricultural, though nearly two-thirds of the *mutilés* were farmers before the war.

A model farm where the use of motor tractors and other machinery adapted to the ability of the *mutilé* is taught, is, therefore, the contribution of the American Red Cross. An estate of 500 acres near Chenonceaux has been obtained and is being fitted to train one hundred men at a time in a four months' course. Shops for the teaching of harness mending, basket-making, machine repair and allied farm industries will be installed.

A model electrical shop is being equipped at another re-educational center which in peace time is used for men crippled in industrial accidents, and other schools are assisted by gifts of goods and money.

After the long months of hospital treatment many *mutilés* are unwilling to take the time or make the effort to learn a new trade. They are discouraged; they feel that they have done their bit and that the country owes them a living. To encourage them to enter the schools and to take a new interest in life, the Red Cross has organized a series of lectures, moving pictures and posters to tell the men in the therapeutical centers what re-education really means; recreational tours are to be organized through the training centers to lighten the drab monotony which sometimes settles there.

The remarkable work originated in England by Captain Derwent Wood for men whose faces are badly mutilated has been introduced into France for the first time by the Red Cross. The process of surgical regeneration of the tissues requires months or years; to enable the unfortunate *mutilé* to go about a normal business and social life Mrs. Anna Coleman Ladd, an American sculptor, is engaged in making portrait masks, cast in very thin copper, covered with a silver deposit, and painted to resemble flesh. These masks are attached by spectacle bows; at the small cost to the Red Cross

of Frs. 100 each they make it possible for the worst facial *mutiles* to go about the streets without attracting attention, to return to their former occupations, and in other ways to resume the normal way of living which their marred faces had closed to them.

In the capital another group of war derelicts is benefitting by a work which is less spectacular but no less important : the effort to provide suitable housing for some of the thousands of refugees who crowd Paris. At the beginning of the war the moratorium suspended payments of rent on the part of families who had sent a man to the front; those who rented lodgings after the moratorium was declared did not profit by the rule, and the landlords tried to make up by overcharging. The result has been that the refugee, coming to a city where building has been at a standstill while the population has been increasing by leaps and bounds, found few lodgings available, and those exorbitantly expensive. Usually he has not sufficient capital to buy household goods, and must take a furnished apartment. In many cases a family of four or five is obliged to live for months in one squalid room.

In wartime there obviously can be no question of erecting new buildings. Even those which were under construction in August 1914 stand just as the workmen left them when the mobilization order came. The Red Cross obtained a list of these buildings from the police authorities; some would have required a very large investment to make them habitable, others were practically complete. Because of the legal complications of an organization in a foreign country the Red Cross itself did not lease the houses, but advanced to French refugee and housing organizations money for completing those which were suitable. The French organizations undertook the supervision and management, and the funds advanced by the Red Cross eventually will be repaid from rentals. In all cases the Red Cross has supplied furnishings. Dwellings have already been provided, or are almost ready, for nearly seven thousand persons. In each house so completed a permanent sign welcomes the tenants :

« Greeting to those whom the war has separated
for a time from their homes.

May our sympathy comfort them and render less severe
the trials which they have accepted valiantly
for France and the Right. »

(Name of co-operating French organization)
The American Red Cross.

Other needs of the refugees are met through a special refugee dis-

pensary, used also as a central consulting dispensary for other Red Cross medical centers in and about Paris; and through the American Hostels for Refugees and the *Vestiaire d'Accueil Franco-Américain*, which have been taken over by the Red Cross. The former carries on varied activities for refugees, lodging houses, restaurants, creches, etc.; from the latter shoes and supplies of clothing are given out.

Aside from the special work already described for repatriates who are tuberculous, the American Red Cross in conjunction with the Rockefeller Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France is undertaking a constructive program for the whole of France, based on a survey of tuberculous hospitalization made by the two organizations. Each department of France forms the basis of an intensive survey with a view to reorganizing it so as to provide uniform hospital, dispensary, and visiting nurse care for all classes of the population and to giving American aid in such a way that the work may continue as a permanent organization in the war against tuberculosis after the cessation of the war against Germany. The preliminary survey has been completed throughout France; in the department of the Eure-et-Loire, which was chosen by the Rockefeller Commission as its model department, the extensive survey also has been completed, and recommendations for the action of the Red Cross have been approved by the Director. Physicians of the Bureau are aiding in the work of the tuberculosis dispensaries at Chartres and Dreux (Eure-et-Loire), as at Blois (Loir-et-Cher) and in three Red Cross dispensaries in Paris.

In the course of the preliminary investigation of tuberculosis hospitalization delegates of the Red Cross have visited and reported in detail upon one hundred and thirty-seven hospitals outside of Paris; and supplies, instruments, drugs, clothing, food, the many things which often were lacking in hastily equipped emergency institutions, have been sent to more than three hundred hospitals.

Within Paris, *baraquements* or temporary wooden buildings were put up by the municipality over a year ago as an emergency measure to house tuberculous patients. These bare barracks necessarily have lacked many of the conveniences and comforts of a permanent institution, and in September, when the Red Cross made its first survey, only a quarter of the beds were occupied. The Red Cross began sending regular consignments of books, games, tobacco, and food to these hospitals, and has established diet kitchens and sitting rooms where they were vitally needed. At two or three it has equipped bowling greens; and it has established workshops where some of the healthier patients pass otherwise vacant hours soling



Miss Grace S. Harper, three of her assistants, and two *mutiles* at the gateway of the model Red Cross re-educational farm.



Chateau Hachette and its park have become a refuge for tuberculous repatriate women and girls.

slippers for which they are paid by a commercial concern. As a result the number of beds occupied has almost trebled.

A sanatorium for civilian men, established in a chateau taken over from the society known as the Tuberculeux de la Guerre last September when it was fused with the Red Cross, has been completed and operated. A small military hospital in Paris was similarly taken over and operated for soldiers. A Red Cross grant of Frs. 285,000 to a general hospital in Paris enabled it to complete a fund necessary to convert property already owned by the hospital into a tuberculosis annex : another grant of Frs. 408,600 made it possible for another sanatorium to complete a large building which had stood unfinished since the war mobilized men and money. The sanatorium was opened on March 18 just in time to receive patients from an institution menaced during the course of the German offensive, and has already more than 200 patients. A marble tablet bears an inscription which, translated, reads :

« In the year 1918, the fourth year of the great war,
on the 18th of March, this building was
opened to officers and soldiers, thanks
to the generous and friendly co-operation
of the American Red Cross. »

FRANCE AND AMERICA : THEIR INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE

It is an international adventure upon which the American Red Cross has entered in its work for the civilians of France. It is a chapter in the history of the war different from any chapter in the history of any previous war. It is an expression of Alliedship in a new language.

Armies have crossed oceans before this to fight beside other armies; but never before, in war-time or in peace-time, have battalions of doctors and nurses and social workers, of business men and professional woman, crossed the sea to aid in fighting tuberculosis and infant mortality, in reconstructing shattered villages and shattered hearts and hopes. The civilian work of the American Red Cross in France is unique; it opens new vistas in international relations; it starts new hopes of the world that will be after the war.

Perhaps this kind of work has had a special appeal to our country, with its traditional love of peace and the arts of practical construction and its reluctance to embark upon the grimmer necessities of war; and certainly the fact that it is done for and with France adds to the strength of that appeal. The wife of a professor at the College de France, herself assistant chief of a Red Cross bureau, turned to Henry P. Davison at a staff dinner in Paris last spring, and replied to his remark that the Red Cross stood ready to do for every war-suffering country what it was doing for France « Je ne le crois pas! » « I can't believe it! » she declared, and went on to tell of the more intimate bonds that link the United States and France.

It is not mere hero-worship, it is not solely admiration of France's tireless resistance to the enemy, nor is it just a memory of historic debts which unites France and America in a friendship personal as well as political, instinctive as well as reasoned. The civil work of the American Red Cross in France goes farther and deeper than any formal alliance. It is an effort to stand beside another nation to work with her in building a common future.

Quick emergency work has characterized the Red Cross contribution after dozens of disasters, when it sheltered victims of air raids in Paris, went to the aid of families dispossessed by the munition blast at La Courneuve, spread a great net of relief and friendship and sympathetic energy over all France for the thousands of refugees

forced to leave their homes and their all by the German offensive. But the war itself is an emergency for any peace loving nation, and it creates constant and continuing emergencies. The more than a million refugees scattered throughout France are never permanently settled and will not be until the war is over and a great proportion of them can return to their homes. Some of them were given new hope and courage in being helped out of the crowded cities and back to their farmland. Driven out a second time by the Germans, they kept their faith and hope, and so expressed themselves to the Americans who worked with them through the winter that there is no doubt left that whatever may have been lost through the German offensive in the way of physical reconstruction, the achievement in moral and spiritual reconstruction remains in undiminished value.

Inevitably the Red Cross works with, in and through French agencies and institutions. There would be relatively little purpose in work done now were it all to end when the peace treaty is signed and the Americans sail for home. But if the American Red Cross can give to France the benefit of American experience in public health methods—often enough American developments of methods and discoveries French in origin—and sow seeds which will continue to yield their fruits when the Americans are gone, a richer purpose will have been fulfilled. That is why, wherever possible, the Americans have worked through French societies, used French personnel, expanded French institutions rather than establish American institutions, and builded everywhere on French beginnings.

An extraordinary opportunity for constructive advance in the whole social field is offered today by a unique combination of conditions. In the field of public health, there has never been a time in any country where the possibilities of accomplishment have been as great they are in France today. Here is a country aroused by a national crisis, its attention forcibly directed to problems long existent, but to combat which effective organized effort had hitherto been lacking. Here is a people ready and alert to act, but with resources largely absorbed by the insistent demands of the war. In three years of stress its mental habits have undergone a striking transformation. Readiness to learn from foreign experience has to an extraordinary degree replaced the complacency which every nation shows under the ordinary circumstances of peace times. The change is manifest not only in private but also in official circles. Everywhere there is evident a determination to deal with the fundamental problems of distress upon which the war has concentrated attention.

Here too is another country with large resources, ready to assist in meeting the situation. For the first time in history, two great

nations are combining their mental moral and financial resources to deal with the problems of preventable disease in a single country.

It is this combination which offers to the American Red Cross and other social agencies, French, British and American, working in France today, their unique opportunity. It has become possible to take in a few years forward steps which in other times would require decades. It has become feasible to make demonstrations on a large scale and to obtain results which for years the scientific world has known to be possible, but for which the necessary means and authority have not been forthcoming. In the fields of tuberculosis or infant mortality and of other great sources of national loss and distress, the campaigns already inaugurated and well under way bid fair to yield results of untold value.

Whatever is done in France today must re-act to an equal degree upon the national situation in America. "If one were to view the present effort in France from a purely selfish point of view, nationally speaking," says Dr. Livingston Farrand of the Rockefeller Commission for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in France, "the expenditure of money and effort on the part of America through the Red Cross and other organizations would be one of the most profitable investments conceivable.

"For there can be little doubt that the next few years, if present plans continue, will see France with an equipment, in certain of the fields in action, more complete than any other country in the world, and that we Americans will return to apply in our own land lessons learned on French soil, and to reap a second time, at home, the results first demonstrated here.

"Properly conceived and adequately supported, these efforts should make the world, when victory comes, better worth living in and more worth having been fought for than when war was declared in 1914."

It is indeed an international adventure.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AFFAIRS

HOMER FOLKS, Director

JOHN A. KINGSBURY, Assistant Director

Bureau of Needy Children and Infant Mortality :

J. H. MASON KNOX, M. D., Acting Chief.

Bureau of Care and Prevention of Tuberculosis :

DONALD E. BAXTER, M. D., Chief.

A. H. GARVIN, M. D., Assistant Chief.

Bureau of Refugees and Relief :

EDWARD T. DEVINE, Chief.

KNOWLTON MIXER, Associate Chief.

J. H. MASON KNOX, M. D., Acting Director of Medical Centers.

Bureau of Reconstruction and Relief :

EDWARD EYRE HUNT, Chief.

LOUIS CHEVRILLON, Associate Chief.

ROBERT B. REED, Associate Chief.

Bureau of Re-education of Mutilés :

GRACE HARPER, Chief.

GEORGES ROBIN, Assistant Chief.

Bureau of the American Friends' Unit :

CHARLES EVANS, Chief.

Editorial and Historical Division :

LEWIS S. GANNETT, Acting Chief.

*French Civilians Aided through the Department of Civil Affairs
during April 1918*

Bureau	Medical Aid	Material Aid	Educational Propaganda	Lodging	Employment & Misc.	Total
Children ..	14,403	56,213	173,155		75	243,846
Tuberculosis	2,581	3,950			22	6,553
Refugees ..	2,440	66,390		9,817	9,594	88,241
Reconstruc- tion (*)						
Mutilés ..		1,447	2,000		20	3,467
TOTAL. ..	19,424	128,000	175,155	9,817	9,711	342,107

(*) Work of the Bureau of Reconstruction & Relief since the beginning of the German offensive in March has been in the war zone and of an emergency nature. Exact figures covering its work are at present unavailable, but it is estimated that 50,000 persons were aided by this Bureau during April.

On May first the Department of Civil Affairs was operating fourteen civilian hospitals, representing a total of 1364 beds, and forty-seven dispensaries and dispensary stations; it was represented in 58 departments of France, by 78 delegates of its Bureau of Refugees; and was carrying on regular work in 119 cities and villages of France.

Department of Civil Affairs

Statement showing, by bureaux, the total value of goods purchased and distributed from Paris during April. (Value of goods purchased locally by delegates not included.)

	Frs.
Reconstruction & Relief.	232,548 20
Tuberculosis	173,361 65
Children	274,084 50
Refugees	1,775,990 40
Mutilés.	14,394 20
TOTAL.. . . .	2,470,378 95

Statement showing, by bureaux, cash donations granted to various outside organizations during April.

	Frs.
Reconstruction & Relief.	10,000 00
Tuberculosis	83,933 45
Children	155,450 65
Refugees	377,845 95
Mutilés.	5,911 50
TOTAL.. . . .	633,141 55

*Grants of goods made through the Department of Civil Affairs
to outside organizations during April*

(Including goods purchased locally by delegates)

Bureau	Tubercu- losis	Children	Refugees	Recons- truction	Mutilés	Total
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing-arti- cles	8,800	3,279	149,756		600	162,435
Shoes-pairs.	774	1,153	24,146		100	26,173
Furniture & household utensils-art.	2,521	1,540	63,834			67,895
Bedding & household linen-articl.	956	2,845	63,134		20	66,955
Cloth-meters	587	4,320	66,953			71,860 (79,844 yds.)
Food-kilos .	8,999	3,411	134,947			147,357 (324,185 lbs.)
Hospital equipment & supply-art.	1,379	15	20		12	1,426
Coal-tons . .			964			964
Miscellaneous articles . .	1,265	299	12,078			13,632

Figures not available for Bureau of Reconstruction.



